

ART. X.— *Two New Species of Frogs from Victoria.*

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In 1891, Mr A. H. S. Lucas published a list of the Amphibian fauna of Victoria in which he included all the forms then recorded from the colony, the total number being 17 species.¹ It might have been thought that the damp cool gullies of both Victoria and Tasmania would have been peculiarly well adapted for the development of a rich Amphibian fauna, but such does not appear to have been the case, and both of the latter colonies are decidedly poorer in this respect than New South Wales. So far as we know yet, the few species which exist in Tasmania are all identical with common Victorian forms. As a general rule, the species of Amphibia met with in Victoria are very widely distributed and exist in considerable numbers. On the other hand there are a few species, whose numbers will doubtless be added to, which are notable for their restricted distribution, and when the, as yet, little zoologically explored districts of the colony, such as Croajingolong and the Cape Otway country, have been more fully searched, our Amphibian fauna may prove to be richer than it appears to be at the present time. I am much indebted to Mr. C. Frost and to Mr. R. Hall for the opportunity of adding to our Amphibian fauna the two species now described.

In 1898 Mr. Frost was camped out during cold wet weather on Mount Baw Baw, which forms part of the Great Dividing Range in Victoria. Having captured a specimen of the "tiger" snake (*Hoplocephalus curtus*) he put it into a bag, in which it remained for two days. At the expiration of this time, Mr. Frost found, on opening the bag, that the snake had disgorged five specimens of a frog which it had evidently, owing to their comparatively good state of preservation, eaten only a short time

¹ Proc. R. S. Vict., vol. iv., pt. 1, 1892. "Notes on the distribution of Victorian Batrachians with description of two new species."

previous to its capture. Fortunately Mr. Frost was able to secure at a latter time, two more specimens in a fresh state. The specimens were sent to my friend, Mr. J. J. Fletcher, to whose work we owe much in regard to our knowledge of Australian Amphibia, and, as they were Victorian forms, he most generously suggested that they should be described by myself.

It is somewhat difficult to fix the exact relationship of this frog to other Australian Cystignathids; it has the general body form of *Heleioporus*, but otherwise has little relationship to the latter, from which it differs in the entire absence of web, in the direction of the pupil, and in the position of the vomerine teeth. From *Cheiroleptes* it differs also in the absence of web (which, though it may be very small in these two genera, is always distinctly visible), and, though not to so great an extent as in *Heleioporus*, in the position of the vomerine teeth and in the unapposibility of the first finger. It is most closely allied to *Linnodynastes*, but differs from this in the absence of the vertical pupil and to a certain extent in the direction of the vomerine teeth, which form two short distinct rows inclined at an angle to one another, and do not extend sideways beyond the level of the inner edges of the choanae.

Philoria, gen. nov.

Pupil horizontal. Tympanum not visible. Tongue subcircular, free behind. Vomerine teeth in two inclined rows behind the level of the choanae. Fingers and toes free, the tips not dilated. Outer metatarsals firmly united. Diapophyses of sacral vertebrae distinctly dilated.

Philoria frosti, sp. n.

Habit fairly stout, much resembling that of *Heleioporus pictus*. Tongue subcircular, slightly nicked and free behind. Vomerine teeth in two series inclined to one another at an angle behind the level of the choanae, and not extending outwards beyond the level of the inner edge of the choanae. Head broader than long; snout rounded, slightly longer than the orbital diameter; nostril nearer to the eye than to the tip of the snout; canthus

rostralis not strongly marked. Interorbital space as broad as the length of the orbit. Tympanum not visible. Fingers blunt and free; first finger not extending so far as the second. Toes short and blunt, no trace of webbing; subarticular tubercles present; three metacarpal tubercles, the inner one strongly, the outer feebly developed. The inner metatarsal tubercle small and blunt. Hind limb short, stout and strongly built; carried forwards the tibio-tarsal articulation barely reaches as far forwards as the shoulder. Upper eyelids, tympanic region, the top of the head and dorsal surface of the body, the upper surface of the arm and fore arm and the upper surface of the leg covered with small warts arranged in roughly longitudinal rows along the back. A very large and prominent triangular shaped parotid gland is present on either side extending backwards over the shoulder region; the longest side of the triangle runs parallel to the mid dorsal line and these two sides are separated from one another by a space which is narrower than that between the orbits. From the posterior angle a special row of warts somewhat larger than the rest, runs backwards to the groin and is continued forwards over the surface of the gland which is otherwise comparatively smooth. Upper surface of body and limbs a general dark brown colour with here and there small irregular light patches; groins and under surface of body and limbs yellowish, mottled with brown.

Length from snout to vent, 44 mm.

Habitat, Mount Baw Baw, Victoria. Collected by Mr. C. Frost.

Type, in the National Museum, Victoria.

Hyla maculata, sp. n.

Tongue subcircular; free and slightly nicked behind. Vomerine teeth in two small groups close to the middle line behind the level of the choanae. Head decidedly broader than long. Snout as long as broad; truncate and slanting downwards so that the nares are vertically on a level with the margin of the upper jaw. Canthus rostralis distinct; the loreal region oblique and slightly concave; interorbital space nearly twice as broad as the upper eyelid. Tympanum not visible. Fingers very slightly

webbed ; toes completely webbed. Discs on the fingers slightly larger than those on the toes. Subarticular tubercle present, no outer metatarsal tubercle. A distinct fold extending over the tympanic region to the shoulder. The hind limb being carried forwards the tibio-tarsal articulation reaches the anterior canthus of the eye. Upper surface of the body covered with minute pits, the closely apposed margins of which present a finely reticulate appearance ; lower surface granulate. A distinct fold along the inner edge of the tarsus. Colour, olive grey above, blotched with darker markings ; the same on the upper surfaces of the limbs.

Length from snout to vent, 50 mm.

Habitat, Powong, Victoria. Collected by Mr. R. Hall.
